Constitutional status to Minorities Commission

*165. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to accord constitutional status to the Minorities Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) It has been decided to accord constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities.

(b) and (c) It will be necessary to introduce two Bills, to repeal the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and to amend the Constitution to grant constitutional status to the Commission. The Bills will be introduced as soon as possible.

Status of the ICDS

*166. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are achieving slow progress in the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme for providing nutritional food to poor children and establishing of Anganwadi centres; and

(b) if so, the status of implementation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments with 100% financial assistance from the Central Government for inputs other than supplementary nutrition which the State Governments have to provide out of their own resources.

The operationalisation of sanctioned Anganwadi Centres was slow until recently. However, as a result of concerted efforts of the Government, the pace of operationalisation of Anganwadi Centres has now picked up. As a result, number of operational Anganwadi Centres has increased from 5.46 lakh at the end of 9th plan to 6.74 lakh as on 31.08.2004.

Some of the States are not providing supplementary nutrition as per norms of the Scheme. The matter is being pursued with them to ensure compliance of the norms.

Tribal Universities

*170. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to establish Tribal Universities in the country including for technical education; and

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy would be evolved soon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government may either establish a University by or under a Central Act or declare, on the advice of the University Grants Commission, an institution of higher education to be a 'deemed to be University'. A Central University is established to correct regional imbalances or to cover large gaps in the educational map of India, thereby ensuring a balanced growth of higher education in all parts of the country. Several institutions of higher studies, including Central Universities, State Universities and 'Deemed to be Universities' such as the National Institutes of Technology, are located in areas predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes. In view of the foregoing, the Government have no proposal to establish a tribal University.

Allotment of land by land and development office

*172. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered a probe into the cases of allotment of land made by the Land and Development Office since 1998-99;